ordered which has been completed. Based on enquiry, it has now been decided to start the recruitment process.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Reforms ln technical education

† * 56. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
DR. D. MASTHAN:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a need for comprehensive reform in technical education in the country;

(b) if so, whether Government have prepared any draft scheme for the said reforms; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and what decision has been taken by Government for getting assistance from private sector to implement this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) to (c) "Reforms in technical education in the country is a continuous process and this is achieved through the implementation of the National Policy on Education (NPE) and the Programme of Action (PoA). It includes coordinated and planned development of technical education as embodied in the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) Act, 1987. For the development of technical education, AICTE runs several schemes such as Modernisation and Removal of Obsolescence, Thrust Area Programme in Technical Education, Research and Development Programme, Entrepreneurship and Management Development Programme, Early Faculty Induction Programme, Quality

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Improvement Programme, strengthening of National Board of Accreditation, etc. An All India Board of IT Education has also been constituted under AICTE.

Apart from the initiatives on the part of the AICTE, recent initiatives taken to strengthen the technical education system include strengthening and consolidation of infrastructural facilities in Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs), Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Regional Engineering Colleges (RECs) etc; establishment of more IITs, IIMs and Engineering Colleges; establishment of Indian Institute of Information Technology (HIT) at Allahabad and Indian Institute of Informantion Technology & Management (IIITM) at Gwalior; National Programme for HRD in IT, Review of Postgraduate Education; increase of students intake in engineering and technical institutions; increasing output of information technology manpower; mobilization of private initiatives; development of technologies in emerging areas and their transfer to user agencies through technology development missions; transfer of techno-economic advances in technical education and appropriate technologies to rural people through expansion of Community Polytechnics; Scheme for upgrading existing polytechnics to integrate the physically disabled in the main stream of technical and vocational education; modernisation of institutions and development of R&D base; Technician Education Project; modernisation of libraries and switch over to electronic libraries with interconnectivity; etc. RECs are being strengthened as per the Mashelkar Committee recommendations to become world class institutions (Centres of Excellence). Furthermore, technical education system will also work for improving the productivity of the informal sector of the economy.

Private Sector is involved substantially in running of technical institutes, some of which are of very good quality, under the overall supervision of AICTE."